

Applicant : Shuwu Wu et al.
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Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-
099001 / Communications 22

REMARKS

The paragraphs starting at page 17, line 19, page 18, line 3, and page 20, line 10 have been amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

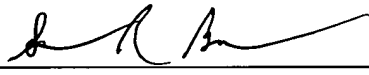
Claims 1-26 are pending, with claims 1, 21 and 22 being independent.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.

Applicants ask that all claims be examined. No fee is believed to be due. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the specification:

Paragraph beginning at page 17, line 19 has been amended as follows:

After receiving the instant message from the sender 602a, the host [704] 604 authenticates the instant message (step 610). In addition to the textual body, the instant message may include header information identifying the message type, the screen name and/or IP address of the sender and recipient, and a randomly generated security number. The instant message may be authenticated by, for example, using a reverse look-up table to match the screen names and/or IP addresses with those of valid subscribers. In the event that either the sender 602a or the recipient 602b is not associated with a valid subscriber, the host 604 reports an error message.

Paragraph beginning at page 18, line 3 has been amended as follows:

Upon receiving the report from the host 604, the sender 602a displays a UI according to the capabilities of the sender and/or the recipient [702b] 602b (step 625). If the sender 602a is not talk enabled, then a standard instant messaging user interface is displayed. If the sender 602a is talk enabled, but the recipient 602b is not talk enabled, a START TALK UI having a grayed START TALK button is displayed. If both the sender 602a and the recipient 602b are talk enabled, a START TALK UI having a functioning START TALK button is displayed.

Paragraph beginning at page 20, line 10 has been amended as follows:

Talk sessions may work in either full or half duplex. Full duplex is when both users can talk at the same time. Half duplex is where only one user can talk at a time. A client device is determined to be incapable of handling full duplex, for example, if the CPU is too slow to compress/decompress audio simultaneously and/or the microphone and speakers cannot be opened simultaneously. If a client device is marked as half duplex, then any talk session used by that client device becomes a half duplex session, regardless of whether another device can handle duplex mode. In one implementation, a TALK/LISTEN button on the END TALK UI supports

half duplex operation. This button has two states: LISTEN or TALK. If the talk session is full duplex, this button is not shown. If the button reads TALK at both the sender [702a] 602a and the recipient [702b] 602b (Initial Half Duplex), the first user to click TALK is allowed to talk and the other user is forced to listen. The user who is listening has a grayed out TALK button (Half Duplex Listen) and the user who is talking has a LISTEN button (Talking Half Duplex). When the LISTEN button is clicked, the user who is talking allows the user who is listening to talk.